

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

October 25, 2016

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Kavonte' Duckett, Felicia Turner, Francisco Alves, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Annette Breiling, Adam Book, Lee Wisner, and Irene Packer-Halsey.

Liaison member Jet Reid was present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Lt. Thomas Tokarz, Nina Carr and Pam Knight.

IV. All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance if they wished.

V. The September 2016 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. Felicia Turner moved to approve the minutes, and Tonya Amedon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Lt. Tokarz reported that former HRC Chair Angela Spencer had recently been presented an award for her service, and had sung the National Anthem at a memorial service for an FPD officer. He stated that the annual hiring report is in progress. Lt. Tokarz said that 9 recruits are in the current police academy and appear to be people of great integrity and character. He said that recruitment efforts are underway to hire officers for the next class that will begin in June 2017, and asked all HRC members to consider referring people who may be interested in applying. Lt. Tokarz said that FPD has recruited in Pittsburgh and at Andrews Air Force Base.

Felicia Turner asked Lt. Tokarz about getting flyers and written materials to give to young people in groups she belongs to, and Lt. Tokarz said he would get in touch with her about that. Lt. Tokarz said that FPD has a recruiting committee that meets monthly to discuss ways to improve recruiting. Irene Packer-Halsey offered to help FPD on Puerto Rico recruitment.

Pam Knight introduced herself as a recovering drug addict who used pain pills and eventually completed a 45-day treatment program. She said that opiate withdrawal is an awful experience, and rendered her a broken woman. She was able to spend 5 months in a sober home, and now speaks whenever possible to advocate for education on drug addiction and the need for more detox programs. She described the very limited resources in this area, and how it is critical to get addicts into detox immediately when they are willing to go. Pam said that middle aged and elderly people are increasingly becoming addicts.

Nina Carr, outreach coordinator and volunteer leader at Heartly House spoke on the services and programs now being offered. She explained that Heartly House operates a 24/7 confidential hotline to help victims of sexual assault, child abuse and intimate partner violence. It also assists the Frederick

Center in offering an LGBTQ support group. Nina described the 7 bedroom, 29 bed shelter that houses women and children who are in immediate physical danger. Heartly House also provides legal services through 2 attorney and 2 legal advocates, averaging around 400 restraining orders per year.

VII. It was reported that the HRC has \$4,539.00 in funds on hand.

VIII. Mari Lee reported that the County recently authorized the appointment of Lee Wisner and Roger Sobkowiak, and the reappointment of Adam Book, Mari Lee and Irene Packer-Halsey, to the HRC.

Mari Lee said that the new HRC logo designs have been completed and are now being used.

Tonya Amedon reported that the Community Relations Committee had met and decided to encourage all HRC members to participate in one designated service project every quarter. Members will still be encouraged to attend public events and represent the HRC. Tonya reported that the Youth Leadership program was on hold due to leadership changes at the Boys & Girls Club.

Kavonte' Duckett said that the Government Relations Committee was working on the upcoming Legislative Lunch on December 7. The committee is also looking at the topics that are included on the HRC survey forms, and whether changes should be made. He said that it is also looking at whether the HRC should compile a list of speakers for future meetings, and welcomed suggestions and recommendations.

David Kaye said that the Internal Relations Committee wants to develop a 3-year strategic plan for the HRC.

Lisa Clark reported that the Special Committee on Events was already working on plans for the HRC Awards Dinner, which will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at Dutch's Daughter. She said that the HRC will participate again this year in the MLK Day of Service activities that will take place at the American Karate Academy, located at 928 N. East St. in Frederick. The project this year will again involve the preparation of "happy hats" that will be given to children in hospitals. The American Karate Academy is owned by Lisa's husband, Mark, who makes this space available at no cost. Last year more than 100 people participated, including many HRC members.

Lisa encouraged HRC members to buy tickets and support an event to be held on December 7 in the evening at Il Forno Pizzeria in the Westridge Square Shopping Center on 40 West. It is a fundraiser for Frederick County's homeless children.

Mari Lee and Tonya Amedon discussed the planning for upcoming public forums. Some of these will continue the dialogue on community policing, and others will focus on different human rights topics. It is expected that some of the forums will be held in locations other than Winchester Hall, and be more convenient to attend.

IX. Old Business: Mari Lee described the many medical services that were offered at the Asian American Center's Community health fair on October 22, in which several HRC members participated. She encouraged everyone to register with Dropbox, where many HRC documents are being placed. Mari Lee

said that Marguerite Vacca-Kaye will be in charge of the HRC quarterly newsletter, and she will be helping with it.

X. Miles Ward described the implicit bias training that was recently provided to all FPD officers at Hood College. He said that Dr. Bryant Marks from Morehouse College in Atlanta led the session, and is a national expert. He did a fine job dealing with some these serious issues. Miles also mentioned the excellent program on the book, *All American Boys*, that featured HRC members Annette Breiling and Kavonte' Duckett, and Capt. Pat Grossman from FPD.

XI. New Business: Mari Lee mentioned that recent changes in the Maryland Open Meetings Laws require the HRC to post meeting agendas online not less than 24 hours before meetings. Minutes must be kept for 5 years. Mari Lee encouraged all members to attend Executive Committee meetings, especially if they want the HRC to vote on something. Significant business items that require a vote need to be listed as agenda items, and the agenda is discussed and set at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mari Lee said that the HRC holiday potluck will take place on December 13, starting at 6:00 pm at the Public Safety Training Center.

XII. The meeting was adjourned.